(b) whether some persons belonging to other castes are working on the said posts;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government to fill up the backlog ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) The requiste information in being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Vigilance/Corruption Cases

2062. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of corrution, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to the income of civil servants investigated by the Vigilance Department of Ministry in 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the number of officers (Grade-wise) found involved them therein;

(c) the number of complaints received for corruption and dishonesty in 1995-96 and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Vigilance initiate action *suo moto* against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt ;

(e) whether the Ministry have made any review of the functioning of powers of the vigilance section under their control ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (f) There is no Vigilance Department of the Ministry. However, both the departments *viz.* Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and Department of Fertilizers in the Ministry have separate vigilance units in accordance with the extant guidelines of the Central Vigilance Commission. Eight complaints of corruption against ten officials of the Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals were received in the vigilance unit of that Department and were examined during 1995-96 and 1996-97. No case of corruption or dishonesty in respect of officers of the Department of Fertilizers was investigated by the vigilance unit of that Department in 1995-96 and 1996-97. The Annual Property returns of all Group A and B officers were, however, scrutinised as per the prescribed procedure and no case of disproportionate assets came to light.

Discontinuation of Wheat in Open Market

2063. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN :
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALLA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the FCI has discontinued the open sale of wheat in the market ;

(b) if so, the date from which it has been discontinue and the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether this decision of the FCI adversely affects on some States particularly in Kerala ;

(d) whether representations have been received to revive the open sale of wheat by FCI ;

(e) if so, the details thereof :

(f) whether the Government propose to issue directions to the FCI to revive the open sale of wheat in the market ; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir, the Open Market Sale Scheme has been discontinued.

(b) The Open Market Sale Scheme has been discontinued with effect trom 1st April, 1997 till further orders due to tight position of wheat stock in the Central Pool.

(c) No reports have been received regarding adverse affect due to discontinuation of open sale of wheat as Rabi season started in April, 1997 and there was ample availability of wheat in wheat producing states from where it was moved to other states on trade account also.

(d) and (e) Government of India have received representations from Kerala Roller Flour Millers Association, Karnataka Roller Flour Mill Association and Confederation of Flour Mills of Southern States for resumption of open sale of wheat to continue with the Open Market Sale Scheme.

(f) and (g) Presently, there is no proposal under consideration with the Government to sell wheat in the open market.

Upgradation of Research Organisations

2064. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken special steps to encourage/strengthen/upgrade research Organisations/